

THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

On the inside . . .

Resident Applauds

Open County

Meetings . . . On Page 2

76th Year No. 6

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE COUNTY SEAT AT MARSHALL, N.C.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1977

15¢ Per Copy

Old Hunter Creek Gives Water Relief

But Shortage Still Considered Critical

By JIM STORY

Marshall citizens were given relief, at least temporarily, Monday when town officials were given permission to reactivate the Hunter Creek impoundment area, for

countless years the source of water storage for the Town of Marshall and condemned in 1975 when leaks around the dam were ruled hazardous. An engineer from the Department of Human Resources told local officials to reconnect the pipes at the lake which supplies water to the reservoir, located on the mountain between the Marshall Shopping Center and the Community Building.

This action was taken when it was found that about 40 feet of water were in the large lake.

The Marshall Elementary School on the Island and Madison High School were dismissed at 10 a.m. Monday due to the critical water shortage but reopened Tuesday after the reactivation of the Hunter Creek supply.

EDWARDS MAKES STATEMENT

Supt. Edwards stated Tuesday morning that he is hopeful that the two schools can operate on a "full schedule" but stated that this would depend on water conditions. He stated that he is cooperating with state health officials as well as town officials in a day-to-day schedule, including school meals. If possible to give the children meals in paper plates, we will be glad to do so if it meets the approval of health officials, Edwards said. He also expressed his appreciation for the fine cooperation he is receiving under these emergency conditions.

Local residents and firms

are urged to take every step possible to conserve water since the town is still in a critical situation.

The critical water shortage in Marshall has added to the discomfort and agony of local citizens who have been victims of the worst winter freeze in the town's history.

The latest crisis occurred this past weekend when ruptured water lines leading from wells failed to supply water to the million-gallon reservoir. Those fortunate enough to have running water in their homes naturally let water "trickle" to keep their pipes from freezing. This added demand for water plus the normal consumption causing the water level in the reservoir to reach record lows.

William Perrigo, area Coordinator for the Division of Civil Preparedness, said that the last time an emergency situation existed, the water level in the local reservoir was 11 feet. The level last Sunday afternoon was only three feet. This was less than a 24-hour supply.

Realizing the situation, it was decided to ask for assistance from the National Guard after a meeting Sunday with Mayor George Penland, Vice Mayor James Penland, Alderman Donald Ramsey, Madison County Supt. Robert L. Edwards, Marshall Fire Chief Charles Crowe, County Commissioner James T. Ledford and Perrigo.

As a result of the meeting Sunday, National Guardsmen from Lenoir were alerted and immediately made plans to use two 5,500-gallon tanker trucks to begin transporting water.

MARS HILL HELPS

Mars Hill officials were contacted and agreed to donate its water supply "for as long as it lasts." This generous offer was quickly accepted and by 7 a.m. Monday, the National Guard trucks and 13 guardsmen were in Mars Hill loading up ready to transport water to the Marshall reservoir.

In the meantime, workmen are making efforts to have the water lines from the wells to the reservoir repaired.

Approximately 60,000 gallons of water were hauled from Mars Hill Monday to provide an emergency supply, despite difficulties in freezing lines from the trucks to the reservoir.

"We will always be grateful to Mars Hill for assistance during this crisis," town officials stated.

State requirements, however, dictated that the supply of water from Mars Hill be discontinued Monday afternoon to prevent a shortage of water at Mars Hill.

The 13 guardsmen and 2 captains were provided quarters and meals at Mars Hill College. They loaded water from a fire hydrant in Mars Hill, Perrigo said, and hauled it approximately 11 miles with icy cold weather making hauling and unloading difficult.

Town officials said that Marshall usually uses between 250,000 and 300,000 gallons a day. R. L. Edwards, superintendent, stated that

approximately 10,000 gallons are required daily at the two schools or about 10 gallons per pupil per day.

This latest crisis follows 18 consecutive days that more than 60 homes in one section of Marshall (across the river from Main Street) have been without water due to frozen pipelines. Countless other homes in the Marshall area have also been without running water during this record freezing weather.

Although there are still major leaks in the main pipeline beneath the bridge across the French Broad River, this does not affect water to the school on the Island, it was reported.

Work crews have toiled "around the clock" in efforts to get water to many of the waterless homes but until the temperatures rise it is almost a useless task.

Marshall firemen and others have been busy hauling water to homes as well as answering fire calls and keeping fire-fighting trucks and equipment ready "for the next call."

Although some of the ice has gradually washed down the river, newly formed ice covers the river during nights when temperatures drop in the single figures.

Marshall citizens are asked to take every step possible to conserve water. Perrigo said, "We realize that they have to try to keep their pipes from freezing but it is hoped that they will conserve in every way possible until the situation is relieved."

STANDING BY

In the meantime, the National Guard is standing by ready to transport water from Asheville or some other location should the system from Hunter Creek falter.



NATIONAL GUARD trucks and personnel started hauling water from Mars Hill to Marshall early Monday morning as the water supply to the million-gallon reservoir stopped due to ruptured water lines between wells and the

reservoir. Shown above are National Guardsmen from Lenoir with one of the 5,000-gallon capacity trucks pumping water into the reservoir. Left to right, Butch Townsend, Kenny Greene, Terry Holsclaw and James Dula.



Cage Tourney Opens

The newly-organized Mountain Basketball Tournament will begin next Wednesday at Mountain Heritage High School it was announced this week.

Teams participating will be Mitchell High Mountaineers, Avery High Vikings, Madison High Patriots and Mountain Heritage High Cougars. The tournament will include the JV boys and girls and the varsity boys and girls.

Semi-finals will be played on Friday night and finals are slated for Saturday night.

Pairings for the tournament were not made in time for publication this week.

The tournament was organized on Jan. 31 by coaches from Mitchell, Madison and Yancey Counties. The name Mountain Basketball Tournament is in honor of the mountains where we live, it was stated.

Certification Needed For Pesticide Use

Environmental Protection Agency regulations require all farmers using restricted use pesticides to be certified before purchasing these materials prior to Oct. 21. The law does not affect any purchases needed for the 1977 crop year.

All pesticides having the words danger and poison on the labels are restricted use pesticides.

Madison County farmers using methyl-bromide (tobacco bed gas), dasanit,

mocap, warfarin, arsenate, or other materials on the restricted use list will need to become certified for their use.

Schools for people to become certified for the use of pesticides will be scheduled in all sections of the county during 1977. Those needing to be certified to purchase pesticides will be notified by letter and through the newspaper of dates the schools will be held in the different communities.

President Of State Baptist Convention

Privette To Preach At Upper Laurel

The Rev. Coy Privette, president of the N. C. Baptist State Convention, will preach at Upper Laurel Baptist Church, Route 3, Mars Hill (Highway 23 North) at the 11 a.m. worship hour this Sunday.

The announcement was made by the Rev. Charles Rogers, pastor of the church.

Rev. Privette, born Jan. 31, 1933, the youngest of six sons of a Statesville textile worker, enrolled in Wake Forest College on a football scholarship, playing guard on the team. He received his B.A. degree from Wake Forest in 1955 and received his M.D. degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1959.

He is married to the former Betty Shoaf of Kannapolis and they have four daughters.

Privette has served New Hope and Faith Baptist churches in Statesville, 1953-59; First Baptist Church, Elberse, 1959-62; and North Kannapolis Baptist Church, Kannapolis, 1963-75. He has served as president of the Baptist State Convention since 1975 and was first vice president of the convention from 1973-74.

of the N. C. Christian Action League, 1970-75; served in the U. S. Army, 1955-57; and is currently serving as chaplain (Major) of the U.S. Army Reserves. He is also a member of the board of trustees of Wingate College.

He was a candidate (unsuccessful) for Republican nomination for governor of North Carolina in 1976 and resigned as minister of North Kannapolis Baptist Church last spring when he announced his candidacy for governor because he wanted to avoid any apparent conflict of church and state. At present he has no church, but for the past few months he has been busy with active duty in the Army Reserves, preaching, revivals, etc. Although he plans to stay in North Carolina, he does not know whether he will pastor a church, become a staff member at a church-related institution or college or whether he will enter private business.

Precinct Meetings Changed

Democrats throughout North Carolina will hold their precinct meetings at 8 p.m. Thursday, May 5, instead of Feb. 10, as originally planned.

In a letter from Mrs. John L. McClain, state chairman, to Zeno H. Ponder, Madison County chairman, the change of date was made in keeping with Gov. Hunt's statement on the energy crisis and the possibility that most polling places might not be available on the original date. Makeup date will be on Thursday, May 12.

County conventions will convene at 12 noon on Saturday, June 18.

Letters from Ponder to precinct chairmen and vice-chairmen, requested them to "Please call as many of your Democrats as possible and advise them of the change to Thursday, May 5, when it will be daylight at 8 p.m. and winter will be over. Let me respectfully request that each of your chairmen or vice-chairmen drive to the polling place, and not necessarily open it but stay until 8:30 or 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 10, and advise those Democrats who may appear that the date has been changed by our state chairman."

US 23

To Be Discussed At Mars Hill Highway Meeting

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) will hold a public meeting next week to discuss proposed improvements to US 23 in Madison County from the intersection of US 19 to the Tennessee state line.

The meeting is scheduled for tonight (Thursday, Feb. 10) at 7 in the Mars Hill Elementary School Cafeteria, Mars Hill.

This project is included in the 1976-1983 North Carolina

Highway Improvement Program with right-of-way acquisition scheduled for fiscal year 1979 and construction scheduled for fiscal year 1980.

This public meeting is being held in order to involve the general public early in the planning process. The public will have an opportunity to comment on and discuss the project with DOT representatives and suggest alternatives. All alternatives will

be studied before a final recommendation is made in order to select the best improvement for US-23.

In 1965, Congress created the Appalachian Regional Development Program which provided for the construction of a transportation system whose primary purpose was to generate economic development for the region's inhabitants. North Carolina is one of 13 states participating in this Appalachian Regional

Development Program.

The proposed improvement of US-23 from its intersection with US-19 to the Tennessee state line is just one segment of the overall goal to complete the Appalachian Development Highway System.

Questions or comments concerning this project should be directed to: T. L. Watson, N. C. Division of Highways, Planning and Research Branch, Highway Building, Raleigh 27611.

Vocational Education Week Observed

Gov. James B. Hunt Jr., proclaimed the week of Feb. 6-12 as North Carolina Vocational Education Week. Over 250,000 North Carolina public school students join 13 million vocational education students in the nation in observance of the week with activities depicting the theme, "Vocational Education Builds the Skills of America."

Nationally, vocational education came into being with the passage of the Smith-Hughes Act in 1917 which provided federal funds for

agriculture, trade, and industrial education, home economics and teacher training. Subsequent legislation encompassed the areas of distribution, business and office education, health occupations, guidance services and training programs for handicapped and disadvantaged individuals.

The North Carolina General Assembly passed vocational education legislation as early as 1911 with the County Farm Life School Act which established one vocational

school in 10 selected counties to initiate a program of teaching agriculture and home economics. This legislation was a forerunner of the Smith-Hughes Act. The Craven County Farm Life School, located at Vanceboro, was the first to take advantage of this county-wide act. By 1917 there were 21 farm life schools, some on a county-wide basis, others on a township basis operating in the state.

"Vocational education is an important part of a well-balanced school program and

not an isolated subject," according to State Supt. Craig Phillips. "It is part of a program of studies aimed at developing competent workers and recognizing that the American workers should also be competent economically, socially, emotionally, physically, intellectually, and in a civic sense."

Jack C. Cole is local planner for the vocational programs in Madison County schools which are participating in the observance this week.



REV. COY PRIVETTE